

Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, December 16, 2008

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Groups meet to plan staging area

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Representatives of the six organizations, two province-owned tourist attractions and two municipalities came together last Wednesday to lay the groundwork for a master plan for the Elk Point staging area.

Elk Point TrailRiders Snowmobile Club, the Iron Horse Trail, North East MuniCorr, Riverland Recreational Trail Society, Friends of the Forts, Fort George and Buckingham House historic site, Whitney Lakes Provincial Park, the Town of Elk Point, County of St. Paul and Elk Point Chamber of Commerce were called together by Elk Point's economic development coordinator Bob Bezpalko to "get feedback regarding what the people would like to see at the staging area."

The area currently has the TrailRiders' cabin, a gazebo and fire pit, along with a former campground outhouse and the tourist information centre, the latter two to be replaced this coming summer by the long-awaited eco centre. Bezpalko said the area would also have ample room to locate a future museum to the west of the eco centre and a water park east of the gazebo. The area will provide parking but no camping will be permitted, and the community's trailer dumping station along Highway 41 north will stay in its current location.

Chamber president Sandy Smith showed the engineer's rendering of the eco centre design and passed around plans of the main floor, and said the exterior replica of Elk Point's original CN station will be modified inside to meet current needs, and will utilize solar, wind and geothermal energy to power the structure. An eco education centre is planned for the upper floor, and will attract school groups as well as tourists.

The building has two sets of washrooms, one accessible from the outside to meet the needs of trail users, and Smith assured the group that security concerns would be addressed.

Bezpalko said the tourist information area will first and foremost promote the local area and its amenities and attractions. He plans to have 'mall map'-type signs with "you are here" that will indicate the location of businesses and services and show how to access them. New signage is also planned for Highway 41 to point the way to the eco centre and staging area.

(Continued on Page 2)



Vicki Brooker photo

A few reindeer games crept into Elk Point Community Choir's rendition of "White Christmas" on Friday night, as Rudolph, with his nose so bright and his antlers hung with candy canes, romped into the Elk Point Seniors' Centre with a formally attired Santa to liven up the Christmas classic. Choir director Udo Mueller surrendered his podium to Linda Peters for the number, and played the piano accompaniment, while pianist Deanna Easthope turned pages. Story, page 3.

Council considering in-town recycling depot

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A recycling depot may be in the works for Elk Point in the New Year. Coun. Dwayne Yaremkevich told town council at their Dec. 9 meeting that since Evergreen Regional Waste Authority has "no immediate plans" to set up such facilities, the town may want to set up their own. He reported that Bonnyville has purchased their own bins and Jim Young of Big Jim's Recycling Centre in Lac La Biche picks up the piano accompaniment, while pianist Deanna Easthope turned pages. Story, page 3.

"That's probably the way to go," he said, noting that Young "is willing to sit down and talk with us."

Four or five bins would be needed for cardboard, newspaper, metal, glass and plastic, and could be rented or purchased, Yaremkevich said. He suggested the depot could be

set up adjacent to the new fire hall.

Yaremkevich feels the County of St. Paul may be interested in being part of the recycling project, and he agreed to write up a proposal to present to the county council when they meet with town council in the near future.

The joint meeting of the two councils had been originally been planned for Dec. 9 but will be rescheduled due to other commitments.

EDO seeking input

Economic Development officer Bob Bezpalko gave council an outline for the meeting of groups involved in the Iron Horse Trail staging area development, and said he would present the town's plans for the area at that time.

"We're really looking at getting input. It's the start of coordinating the area," Bezpalko said, noting that, "a major

chunk of this meeting will be to build partnerships. It's designed to increase communication."

Bezpalko also discussed the need for an airport business plan, and said the facility is "a very important amenity." He feels that a consultant coming to examine the facility "will say we need to update the lighting, and there's no funding for that." He added that grant funding is available for other improvements, such as paving, however.

A concept for in-town signage will be taken to the EDC for their input.

Energy, banking agreements

Council agreed to sign up with the Alberta Municipal Services Corporation's energy aggregation program for a five-year term.

(Continued on Page 2)



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ATCO unveils plans for new substation, transmission line

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Area residents who attended last Thursday's open house at the Elk Point Seniors' Recreation Centre learned more about plans for ATCO Electric's planned Lindbergh substation and between 26 and 28 kilometers of new 144-kilovolt (kV) transmission line joining the existing transmission line and the new substation.

The substation, which includes a power transformer, a 144 kV circuit breaker and related electrical and communications equipment in addition to a 30-metre telecommunications tower, would be constructed adjacent to the new Inter Pipeline Fund (IPF) pumping station on Murphy Road, about nine miles north of Sec. Hwy 646, and would supply power to the pumping station.

The transmission line would be similar in nature to the current line two miles west of Elk Point, and would branch off that line between five and seven and a half miles north of SH 646, and would extend east from that point to the substation.

Three basic options have been outlined for the route, including one that would see the line built eastward along Highway 28 to its junction with Highway 41 and continue directly east over Moose Mountain. Other options are between one half and one mile south and between one half and two miles north of the central option.

Criteria for route selection included finding a route with minimum impact on residences, farming, oil and gas operations and communication facilities. The route would follow existing road allowances or property lines wherever possible, and would be as straight as possible to reduce line length and avoid costly corner structures. Potential routes also avoid environmentally sensitive areas such as watercourses, wet or steep areas and wildlife habitat.

The route is to be finalized in February, when application will be made to the Alberta Utilities Commission. Pending approval, construction would take place in the second half of 2009, with completion in December.



Vicki Brooker photo

Area residents Dave Pilisko and Faye Smith check out the proposed routes of the new transmission line which would lead to a new 144 kV Lindbergh substation.

Forts' attendance climbs, enhancements planned

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Fort George and

Buckingham House provincial historic site enjoyed a 20 per cent increase in attendance this year, and facility supervisor Marianne Mack says, "a lot of the increase has to do with the Riverland Adventure Challenge and the David Thompson Brigade's visit."

Plans for an enhanced version of the Riverland Challenge are already underway, and organizer Sheila Thompson says she has "most of her committee back" for the May 30, 2009 event. This year's Challenge will start at the River Park south of Elk Point, and participants will canoe from there to the forts' new river launch, cycle up the hill and run through the two fort sites. The Friends of the Forts are looking into pur-

chasing canoe carts to be used to transport the watercraft up the trail from the launch to the parking area.

A new twist to the 2000 Challenge will be the addition of Fur Factor-type events at points along the route. Thompson is also hoping to have bagpipe and fiddle music, along with a black powder sendoff, as part of the day.

Invitations are already being handed out to potential crafters regarding the July 18 Saskatoon Festival, and Donna Chamberland found several willing volunteers at the Friends meeting to assist with the planning. She also plans to contact the supplier of the Saskatoon pies that are a hallmark of the event.

(Continued on Page 7)

RCMP seek info on attempted break-ins, theft

By CST. JOHN M. SPAANS
Elk Point RCMP

During the early morning of Dec. 7, Elk Point RCMP responded to a complaint of three suspects attempting to gain entry into vehicles and garages throughout the town of Elk Point. The suspects then stole a maroon 1999 Toyota Tacoma.

The suspects are described as Native males aged 16-17. One of the males was wearing a black and white baseball cap with a straight brim and stripes. The hat was described as being similar to the style made by the "Element" brand. He was also wearing a grey and black winter jacket with a checkered style pattern on the shoulders.

If you have any information relating to this or any other serious crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or the Elk Point RCMP at 780-724-3964. If your information leads to an arrest, you may qualify for a reward. You may remain anonymous.

Groups plan staging area

(Continued from Front Page)

A number of ideas came from the groups, including the provision of secure parking for ATVs and snowmobiles both at the staging area and at local motels, maps to encourage local residents to use the staging area amenities and future walking trails, an outdoor water tap for 24-hour accessibility, provision for the disposal of

both horse and dog droppings, garbage and recycling bins.

Additional information available at the centre could include brochures on the oil industry, Canadian Salt

plant, agriculture, natural history and viewpoints. It was felt that there is also a potential for self-guided driving tours of the area.

The enthusiasm and ample input provided by

those in attendance was just what Bezpalko had hoped for. He said he hopes for further input as the project progresses, and added, "I know that by working together, we can do a lot of great things."

Council considering

(Continued from Front Page)

They also approved a further two year term with Servus Credit Union as the town's financial services provider.

Construction Manager

Construction manager agreements for the fire hall and eco centre were tabled to the next meeting to allow council time to study them further. Council has already passed a motion to hire Bernie Genereux to manage construction of both projects.

Town manager Myron Goyan noted that he has already contacted the utility compa-

nies regarding installing gas and electrical services to the sites.

Water bill

A property owner who received a huge water bill after an undetected hose malfunction will be given extra time to pay that bill.

Courses

Goyan, Coun. Mark Gormley and public works superintendent Jay Duffee were designated to attend a basic emergency management course. Two town office staff members will be sent to a FOIP general awareness course in January.

Season's Greetings

May peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessings all year through!

Please join my staff and I for our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

and the unveiling of our

2009 Lac La Biche - St. Paul Calendar.

Thursday, December 18th
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Constituency Office 4434 - 50 Ave., St. Paul
Presentation to the Photo Contest Winners will take place at 6:00 p.m.

Please note that our office will be closed Dec. 19 to Jan. 4 for the holiday season!



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Community Choir brings gift of music

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Community Choir presented their annual Christmas gift of music to the community on Friday evening, with a good crowd enjoying almost two hours of holiday entertainment at the Seniors' Recreation Centre.

In his welcoming remarks, Don Conrad expressed regret that Santa Claus had been sidetracked in Denver, "but we do have a Santa look-alike, in choir director Udo Mueller."

A solo by Barb Bury and drum accompaniment by Ian Brousseau highlighted the choir's first number, "I Hear the Prophet Calling." Brousseau also provided the beat for the second selection, "When Will He Come," with Linda Peters taking over for Deanna Easthope at the piano, assisted by new page-turner Elizabeth Orr.

A very familiar carol, "We Three Kings," was woven into the choir's rendition of "Follow That Wondrous Star," while "Still a Bach Lullaby," with Robyn Sieben on flute, wound up the choir's first set.

The Vermilion Lakeland Voices were special guests at this year's concert, and director Bernie Huedepohe said the group was happy to be back in Elk Point for a second visit. Their regular pianist was on the injured list, but the Voices' former accompanist, Meredith Ottoson, was a very able replacement, he noted.

The visitors sang three of what Huedepohe called "layered songs," including "Let It Snow," "Carols Around" and a combination of "Still, Still, Still" and "Silent Night" that was billed as "On This Still, Silent Night."

Then it was the audience's turn to entertain, as Barb Bury took over the piano for a sing-a-long of favourite carols.

Who said Santa wasn't coming to town? If not the jolly old elf, who was that fellow in the fur-trimmed red hat who came in with a prancing red-nosed reindeer to sing solos in the Community Choir's rendition of "White Christmas?" Linda Peters took over for Udo Mueller to direct this number, while Mueller took his turn at the piano. Too bad choristers John Sieben and Alan Kostyniuk were absent from the choir lineup and missed the fun... or did they?

Peters and Mueller changed places and Sieben and Kostyniuk were back in their places for the next number, "Oh, Freedom," Deanna Easthope returning to the piano for the final numbers of the set. The name may have been almost the same, but the choir's version of "On This Still and Silent Night" was entirely different from that of their Vermilion counterparts, and featured Robyn Sieben on flute. They wound up the set with "Go Light Your World."

Mueller gave his "two cents worth" as the Vermilion singers joined the Community Choir on stage, noting, "We've collaborated before, and the two are greater than the sum of their parts." The two choirs joined together for three final numbers, "Nutcracker Jingles," "A Christmas Madrigal" and "Shalom Chaverim."

The concert wound up the Community Choir's 2008 Christmas tour, which included visits to Bonnyville, Beauvallon and St. Paul.



Vicki Brooker photos

Elk Point Community Choir and the Vermilion Lakeland Voices joined together for the final three numbers in Friday's concert at the Elk Point Seniors' Recreation Centre.



A solo by Barb Bury and drumbeats by Ian Brousseau accompanied the Elk Point Community Choir's first number of the evening, "I Hear the Prophet Callin'" at their annual Christmas concert Friday evening. The Elk Point concert wound up the choir's 2008 Christmas tour, which had included stops in Bonnyville, Beauvallon and St. Paul.



Bernie Huedepohe conducted the Vermilion Lakeland Voices in three layered numbers.

Lights judged tonight

Elk Point residents are reminded to have all their Christmas lights on tonight between 7 and 9 p.m. when the Chamber of Commerce judges tour the town.

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What you need to know about

fire safety during the holiday season

The holiday season is a time for celebrating with family and friends. Keep your home safe from fire with these tips:

- **Keep candles in a sturdy holder** away from children, pets and combustible materials. Blow them out before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- **Stay in the kitchen when cooking.** Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires.
- **Alcohol and fire are a dangerous mix.** Drink responsibly when cooking.
- **Space heaters need space;** ensure at least one metre of clearance from things that can burn like curtains, clothing and furniture.
- **Make sure you have working smoke alarms** on all levels of your home.

A message from your local fire department and the Government of Alberta. For more information about holiday fire safety, visit www.aema.alberta.ca or call toll-free 310-0000 then dial 780-422-9000.

Alberta Strong Communities

EDITORIAL

Thanks for sharing

Giving is traditionally a huge part of the Christmas season, and in our community, the generosity does not stop with family and friends.

A few weeks ago, a huge cargo of shoeboxes was loaded onto the bus and shipped off to children far away, who might not have much of a Christmas without the generosity of Canadians.

As Christmas grows nearer, the Santas Anonymous boxes around town have been filled and refilled with gifts and groceries, and last week the Goat radio station came to town and encouraged shoppers to purchase one of the food bags at the Co-op to add to the Santas Anonymous hampers. A number of events have included a collection for this same worthy cause.

Not all the gifts being given are material in nature. Many are the gift of time, such as when choirs, school classes and youth groups go to entertain at the seniors' lodge and the extended care. The sound of beloved Christmas music and the sight of smiling young faces is a special treat that no money or beautifully wrapped gift could equal in value.

Thanks to all who have thought of others this festive season, for caring enough to share.

WAY BACK WHEN...

Light-up, landfill, firefighters' fundraiser

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT FOR THE WEEK OF DEC.16 IN...

1988

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce added a new category to their annual Christmas Lighting and Decorating contest, with apartment balconies and windows now in the running, along with residential and commercial, for prizes of \$25, \$15 and \$10. Half a hundred parents, teachers and trustees gathered at F. G. Miller High School to lay the foundation for a parent-teacher association.

1993

Extravaganza set the stage for Christmas, with the jolly gent in the red suit kept busy hearing the wishes of local children, who also enjoyed horse-drawn hay rides while their parents browsed the stores and entered the draws, with Erin Mohyluk, Karon Hanson and Karen Norman the big winners. Town council laid plans to meet with their county counterparts to discuss just who had control of the jointly-operated landfill.

1998

High school band members entertained near the bonfire, Ollie Fedorus towed load after load of hayriders around with his tractor and the Boy Scouts sold Christmas trees and hot dogs and dispensed hot chocolate at the annual Christmas Extravaganza, where 'mystery shoppers' Melissa Poulin and Danny White handed out \$30 in Elk Point Bucks to each of 20 lucky shoppers at participating businesses. Elk Point Community Choir heralded the season with a pair of well-attended concerts.

2003

Elk Point's volunteer firefighters gave up their hair in a fundraiser for five-year-old cancer victim Clarissa Gusnowski, raising close to \$10,000. Mayor Lyle Frisby and council welcomed RCMP Sgt. Brian Quist, who said he and his family were happy to move to Elk Point, and "plan to stay here a while."

THIS YEAR'S MUST-HAVE GIFT CARDS.

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GUEST COLUMN

The midnight clear

There is a Christmas carol the author wrote because it was very concerned about the social problems of his day. The Christmas carol is "It Came upon the Mid night Clear".

*"It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
Peace on the earth, good will to men
From heav'n all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing."*



deanna
EASTHOPE
from the FCSS desk

When the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the birth of the infant Jesus, their message was significant to the entire human race. From that birth began a series of changes and miracles, foretold by prophets, that would teach and redeem the people of the world. This Christmas carol sings of the angels' message and its implications.

Edmund H. Sears, a Unitarian minister who wrote this popular carol in 1849, was naturally concerned with the social changes that would, or should, result from the Savior's birth and ministry. His carol text is concerned with

the angels' message not just as a one-time event but as an announcement that continues today to float "o'er the weary world," heralding a new age of peace and happiness.

The author's social concerns are even more evident when we read two verses not included.

*"Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring;*

*O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!
And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!"*

A clergyman quoted in Charles S. Nutter and Wilbur F. Tillett, The Hymns and Hymn Writers of the Church (New York: Methodist Book Concern, 1911, p. 63.) said: "I always feel that, however poor my Christmas sermon may be, the reading and singing of this hymn are enough to make up for all deficiencies."

Yes, it is a great carol (hymn) with a great message. The world would be a different place ... "if only."

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Canada

Something new coming to your local library

By Northern Lights Library System

Review Contributors

Elk Point Municipal Library will be taking an extra-long holiday break this year as this and all the other libraries in the Northern Lights Library System prepare to serve patrons with new, enhanced technology. The library will be closed from Wednesday, Dec. 24 to Thursday, Jan. 8 inclusive, opening for the first time in 2009 on Friday, Jan. 9, when regular hours will resume.

Northern Lights Library System's new integrated library system (ILS) is coming to our library in mid-January, and patrons are invited to check out the enhanced features it offers and to register for or renew their library card.

The new ILS allows customers to access TRACpac,

or online catalogue. From any internet connection, customers have 24/7 access to nearly three million items at www.tracpac.ab.ca or at . Catalogue information includes library materials such as books, CDs and DVDs. With a library card, borrowers have access to their patron account where they can view and manage requests or renew borrowed items. "So, ... in your pajamas on a cold winter night, you can place a hold on a book or renew your borrowed items," notes library manager Daphne Schnurer. If you don't have access to the internet, come into the library and our friendly staff will help you find what you need.

Schnurer commented that, "Library customers and staff are very busy these days. Our goal is to make using and providing library

services as easy as possible for everyone." Enhanced features provided by the new ILS include automatic email notification (previously done by phone) to the customer when their material arrives at the library, thus freeing up staff to help customers with their reading and information needs; customers will be able to create a reading history list with a click of the mouse, and instead of having to constantly check to see if a favourite author has released her next novel, the new ILS will allow customers too create an automatic alert tailored to specific reading interests.

Libraries in Alberta work collaboratively to enhance library services for all Albertans. Schnurer went on to say, "It's all about putting customers' needs first. The new ILS uses the kind of technology that people expect to see in their library. Customers will feel comfortable because the system has a Windows interface similar to their computer at home or work."



Talented crafters showed off their best projects at Further Ed's Show and Tell Luncheon on Wednesday.

COMING EVENT

Special Christmas Program

December 24th at 7 p.m.

at the

Elk Point Baptist Church
gateway to life

Special music, familiar carols and the favorite story of all.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

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Healthcare Auxiliary meets

By Bernice Capjack President

The roll call at the Dec. 1 meeting of Elk Point Healthcare Auxiliary was answered by 11 members. Christmas favours were shown and will be given to long term residents.

Special thanks were extended to Rose Vinge for tearing all the rags which were sold to the Salt Plant; this year they sent a cheque for over \$500.

The time for holding meetings was discussed and

we will try to meet at 7:30 p.m. now to allow more time for members to get in.

The wish list presented by the Health Centre was discussed and members wanted more information before any large purchase was to be made. The purchase of five 13-inch TVs was approved. Support arms for the televisions will be checked out as to type and price, etc.

The Legion may be interested in donating toward some purchases for

the Health Centre, but we will be notified in the near future.

The next meeting will be a supper meeting at the Empress at 6:30 p.m. A gift exchange will be held.

The members wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and agreed they hope to see new members in 2009.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to Haying in the 30's Cancer Support Society

For your support.
Twila Stafford

OBITUARY

BALLAS, Anita



On December 7, 2008, Mrs. Anita Ballas of Elk Point passed away at the age of 79 years.

She will be lovingly remembered by three sons and two daughters, Ron (Sylvia) of Elk Point, Angie (Clarence) Genereux of St. Paul, Gary (Sharon) & Randy (Pam) all of Elk Point & Cynthia of St. Paul; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three sisters and one brother, Ann Foddrill of Morinville, Vera (Lyle) Kristansen of Madeira Park, B.C., Nena (John) Pearson of Portland Oregon & Arthur (Phyllis) Sharko of Athabasca; also numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Peter in 2007.

A Memorial Service will be held Thursday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elk Point Senior's Centre, Elk Point with Pastor Bill Kryzanowski officiating. Cremation has taken place. If desired, donations may be made to Haying in the 30's (Cancer Support Society) c/o Box 425, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0.

Yewchin's Funeral Chapel Ltd. St. Paul. 1-780-645-5177.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDRISHAK, Joanne

In loving memory of a dear wife and mother, who passed away on December 22, 1991, after a courageous battle with cancer.

*We hold you close within our hearts
And there you will remain
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.*

Forever loved and cherished by Peter and Patricia.

THANK YOU

KINCH, Jean

We would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards and donations that were given at the time of Jean Kinch's passing. Also our thanks to the Parkview staff for the kindness and care given to Mom during her stay. Thank you to Sam Donaldson for doing the service and to Gaby Bayduza for playing the piano and to Win McAra for the Eulogy. Thank you to the Heinsburg Community Club ladies for doing the lunch. Everyone's support was very much appreciated.

Tom & Virginia Kinch and Families

THANK YOU

STONE, Gray

We, the family of the late Gray Stone, would like to thank the doctors and staff of the Elk Point Health Centre for their kindness to Dad in his last days.

Thanks to all our friends for the cards, flowers, food, calls and visits to our homes during this sad time.

Thank you to Reverend Sam Donaldson for his kind words, to Ruth Purdy for giving such a true, meaningful eulogy of Dad's life, to Gaby Bayduza for playing the hymns, the pallbearers and to the Heinsburg Ladies for serving lunch.

Special thanks to John, Caroline and Staff of Yewchin's Funeral Home for their support and professionalism.

Virginia & Tom Kinch & Family; Marlow & Marg Stone & Family; Ray & Ruth Stone & Family.

COMING EVENT

The Glendon Community Church

invites everyone to an

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for Rev. Sam Donaldson

at the Glendon Senior's Hall

Sunday, December 21st

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

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1005. Help Wanted

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1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

ALL ROUND EMPLOYEE for housekeeping, tavern, store in small town friendly hotel. Part-time/full-time, room included. Phone Marg 403-779-2498 in Youngstown, Alberta.

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CJS AGRO Services looking for maintenance personnel for fertilizer blending plant. Fax resume to 403-787-2395. Any questions call Corey at 403-787-3931.

DRIVERS NEEDED immediately, Athabasca, Alberta area. Full-time employment, log & gravel haul, accommodations available. Competitive wages. Call 780-212-0153 or fax resume to 780-525-2121.

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1500. Help Wanted - Prov.

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PART/FULL-TIME service, installers, handyman required for water purification firm. Plumbing and electrical knowledge helpful, training provided. Please forward resume to mike@thewaterclinic.com or fax to 306-242-1223.

A-D-V-E-R-T-I-S-I-N-G

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WILF'S OILFIELD SERVICES in Swift Current, Saskatchewan is currently seeking full-time permanent carpenters & labourers for work. Top wages, lots of hours & benefits program. Contact Brent 306-741-1700.

3010. Auctions

ANTIQUE FURNITURE/Collectibles Auction New Year's Day! World class antiques. All categories. 11 a.m., Thursday, January 1, 1235 - 1 Avenue, Wainwright, Alberta. Scribner Auction Ltd. 780-842-5666; www.scribner-net.com.

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THINKING AUCTION! Guarantee your results with Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers. Whether it's equipment, real estate, livestock or a complete farm dispersal. Contact us today! 1-800-491-4494 or rbauction.com.

3210. Misc. For Sale

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1005. Help Wanted

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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3220. Misc. Wanted

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3240. Travel/Trade

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3710. Heavy Equipment

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4040. Livestock

HORSE BREEDERS & Owners Conference, January 9 - 11, Capri Centre, Red Deer. An annual horseman's mid-winter escape - Education, entertainment, networking and socializing; www.albertahorseindustry.ca. 403-948-8521.

4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

HEATED CANOLA WANTED. Buying green, damaged, spring thrashed canola...Buying wheat, barley, oats and peas for feed. "On farm pickup." Westcan Feed & Grain 1-877-250-5252.

1005. Help Wanted

4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

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5003. Real Estate Misc.

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5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

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1005. Help Wanted

5100. Houses For Sale



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1005. Help Wanted

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Time running out for livestock producers to qualify for funding

With the December 31 deadline just weeks away, St. Paul County livestock producers need to act quickly to qualify for their second installment of provincial funding set to hit the mail starting in late January.

The money - part of a \$300-Million transition fund called the Alberta Farm Recovery Plan II (AFRP II) - will help beef, hog and other livestock producers across Alberta, whose industries have been battered by a perfect storm of low livestock prices, high input costs, and until recently, a strong Canadian dollar.

"We want to make sure all livestock producers are aware of the eligibility requirements that must be met by December 31 to qualify for the funding - so they don't miss out," says Vicki Chapman, a Customer Service Manager with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

(AFSC), the provincial Crown corporation administering the payments on behalf of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD). The payments will be the second and final batch of cheques issued under AFRP II, since the program was announced in June.

"The requirements under AFRP II are all about building a strong and reliable traceability system for Alberta livestock. Traceability is vital to keeping our export markets open, accessing new markets, and putting our livestock industry on more competitive footing," explains Jeff Kucharski, CEO of the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency, created by Alberta Agriculture Minister George Groeneveld this summer to oversee the province's Livestock and Meat Strategy. "It helps us assure Canadians and international customers that our meat is safe and of high quality."

"Because of BSE, key markets such as China, Japan, and Korea, are demanding our beef products are age verified, and come from livestock under 30

months of age, in many cases. They also tell us traceability - being able to track the movement of livestock from birth - is a necessity to win the confidence of their consumers. The more we can satisfy these demands, the more likely we can get into these markets - many of which pay premiums," says Kucharski.

To qualify for the funding, all Alberta livestock producers must complete a new updated Premise Identification (PID) form, providing ARD with the location of their home quarter, the type of operation and animals they own, and their maximum livestock capacity.

Beef producers must verify the age of all calves born in 2008 by recording each animal's ear tag number and the dates that calving started and ended on the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency's (CCIA) online database. Feedlot owners with more than 5,000 animals must sign a declaration agreeing to track the movement of live cattle in and out of their feedlots starting January 1, 2009.

"Knowing the age,

Premise ID, and movement of animals will help industry and government manage any future disease outbreak quickly, and keep commerce moving," says Kucharski.

Dennis Serna, who runs a 60-head cow-calf operation near Two Hills, is no fan of extra paperwork, but says he has no problem complying with the AFRP II funding requirements. "It shouldn't be difficult to do, and I think the age verification and Premise ID are a step in the right direction. When we market our product, traceability gives us a negotiating tool, and we need as many of those as we can get these days," says Serna. He points out cattle prices are still as low as when BSE first hit five years ago. However, input costs have risen dramatically.

Chapman says any questions about how to age verify cattle, or how to fill out the PID forms can be answered by calling 310-FARM, the provincial government's Ag-Info Centre. "They can put you in touch with more than 60 ARD and CCIA employees who are out there helping producers age verify,

giving them free access to electronic ear tag readers, and inputting the data onto computers for them."

Once producers have met all the eligibility requirements, they must sign a Statement of Compliance form verifying they've done so. While the deadline to meet the funding requirements is December 31, producers have until January 31 to send in their Statements of Compliance, explains Chapman. These forms have been mailed to producers, and are available at www.afsc.ca.

Many farmers have finished meeting all the requirements, but many more are still phoning the AFSC Call Centre wondering whether they are eligible to receive the second AFRP II cheque, says Chapman. "The payments are based on 2006 livestock inventory, so only producers who owned animals that year are eligible," she explains. "Producers who no longer own livestock, but did in 2006, still need to complete a new PID form."

Farmers must also have qualified for the first AFRP II payment announced in June to be eligible for this second one. "If you didn't apply for the first payment, application forms are available on our website at www.afsc.ca or through our Call Centre at 1-877-744-7900," says Chapman.

Early deadlines

Due to the upcoming Christmas season, deadlines for news and advertising for the Dec. 23 issue will be moved up to Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. to allow us to get next week's Elk Point Review and its Christmas greetings delivered in time for Christmas. Thank you, and have a safe and happy Christmas season.

5800. Manuf. Homes - Sale

WINALTA HOMES is rolling out some sweet deals! Purchase a spacious 1440 sq. ft. home, starting at \$98,900, or a 1584 sq. ft. 1-piece Modular, starting at \$139,900, with immediate delivery available. Lease to own program now available! Limited quantities. Contact Winalta Homes for more information. 1-866-960-2112 or visit us at www.winaltainc.com.

6100. Cars

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6400. Motorhomes/RVs

CASH FOR USED RV'S 2002 or newer only. Most models needed now! Call 403-258-2727 or 1-866-383-2727. Woody's RV World, Calgary South.

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7245. Misc. Services

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7245. Misc. Services

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9005. Personals

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Attendance up at FGBH

(Continued from Page 2)

Enhancements are planned for the interpretive centre in the near future. A 16-foot-wide roof will cover the picnic patio at the north end of the building and will reach above the interpretive centre's roofline, with a row of clerestory windows echoing the building's design.

Mack also unveiled plans for a roofed structure with a hearth for the fire demonstration area. The side walls will show the details of log infill post and beam construction which was a common building technique in fur trade times, with two sections reaching to bench height to provide seating and the third section on each side somewhat higher to provide a windbreak. The ends will be open for easy access. The hearth will have a spark arrestor on its chimney, which will allow it to be used when an open fire is prohibited due to dry conditions.

Both projects are tentatively scheduled for the coming year, which would leave only the children's play area to be added to complete planned improvements to the interpretive centre area.



The tournament champion Hanna Colts include former Elk Point player Kyle Povaschuk (12) who began his hockey career at the A. G. Ross Arena.



The 'A' runner-up Bantam Avalanche were joined by Tim Smereka (far left) who received thanks from the team and coaching staff on behalf of CCS, who donated two sets of handsome new jerseys to the team.

Bantam Avs host own battle of Alberta

By Vicki Brooker
Review Staff

Elk Point Bantam Avalanche hosted their own battle of Alberta this weekend, and after topping their pool with a pair of decisive wins, they came up against Hanna Colts in the 'A' final. The Colts, managed by former Elk Point resident Dan Povaschuk, whose son Kyle is part of the team, are undefeated so far this season, and had shutouts against both Lloydminster Boundary Ford and the

Vegreville Wranglers to their credit before they came up against the host team.

The formidable south-erners went home with the tournament trophy and another big win, but not before Jamison "Fuzzy" Wozniak spoiled their goalie's perfect shutout record with a shot into the top corner with three minutes left in the game, off an assist by Trevor Ballas.

Rugged defenseman Brett "Moose" Ockerman was named Elk Point's player of the game.

The Avalanche had their own shutout in their second game of the tournament, after winning their first game of the season on Friday night against the Vermilion Tigers.

An unassisted goal by the "Moose" put the Avs on the clock midway through the first period. Dakota Amyotte made it 2-0 off assists by Trevor "the Kid" Ballas and Jared Vallee by the end of the period. "The Kid" added an unassisted hat trick in the second period to make it 5-zip after 40 minutes.

"Bruise Brother" Matthew Jenner made it 6-0 off assists by "Moose" and "Fuzzy" before Vermilion finally found the twine with a pair near the end of the third. Dayton Mercredi winding up the Avs win with a last-minute marker off assists by "Fuzzy" and Amyotte.

Saturday's shutout of the Cold Lake Freeze featured two unassisted goals from "The Kid," another pair from Mercredi, both assisted by Danny Garrett, a pair by Michael Abraham, assisted by "the Kid," and singles by Garrett, assisted by "Bruise Brother" Andrew Jenner, "Fuzzy," unassisted, and Vallee, assisted by Amyotte.

Storm comes close

Elk Point Midget Girls Storm came close to a win in the first game of their tournament in Smoky Lake, goals by Tori "T-Rex" Becker and Mindy Meger taking them within one goal of the host team, later taking on Lac La Biche.

The team ventured out again on a -40 Sunday morning for the 'C' final but lost to St. Albert.

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